In chapter 2, you and your vehicle, you learned about some of the controls in your vehicle. This chapter is a handy reference section that gives examples of the most common signs, signals and road markings that keep traffic organized and flowing smoothly.

**Signs**

There are three ways to read signs: by their shape, colour and the messages printed on them. Understanding these three ways of classifying signs will help you figure out the meaning of signs that are new to you.

- **Stop**
- **Yield the right-of-way**
- **School zone signs**
- **Shows driving regulations**
- **Explains lane use**
- **School zone signs are fluorescent yellow-green**
- **Tells about motorist services**
- **Shows a permitted action**
- **Shows an action that is not permitted**
- **Warns of hazards ahead**
- **Warns of construction zones**
- **Railway crossing**
- **Shows distance and direction**
Regulatory signs

These signs tell you about driving laws and regulations. It is an offence under the B.C. Motor Vehicle Act to disregard them. Drivers who do not follow the instructions on these signs may receive penalties.

- **Stop completely — continue only when safe**
- **Give the right-of-way to other vehicles and crossing pedestrians**
- **The maximum legal speed when the road is bare and dry and visibility is good.**
- **Indicates a lower speed limit ahead**
- **Do not go this way — usually mounted on exit ramps**
- **One way — gives direction of traffic on cross street**
- **Winter tires or chains must be used when sign is displayed**
- **Do not enter**
- **Move into right lane if driving slower than regular traffic**
- **Keep right unless passing**
- **Do not pass**
- **Two-way traffic — keep right unless passing**
- **Keep right of the divider**
- **No stopping between here and the next no-stopping sign**
- **No stopping during posted times between here and the next sign**
- **No bicycle riding beyond this point**
- **No right turn on red light**

- **Slow vehicles to use pullouts for the next stated distance**
- **Slow vehicle pullout stated meters ahead**
- **Slow vehicle pullout**
- **Slow traffic delaying 5 vehicles must use pullout**
- **Slow traffic delaying vehicles use pullouts**
School, playground and crosswalk signs

These signs tell you the rules to follow in areas where you need to be extra cautious.

Pedestrian activated crosswalk — prepare to stop if the light is flashing
Pedestrian crosswalk — yield to people crossing
School crosswalk — yield to pedestrians — if there is a crossing guard, follow directions

School zone — reduce speed when children are present

Playground nearby — be prepared to slow down
Playground zone — 30 km/h limit is in effect every day from dawn to dusk
School zone — 50 km/h limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on school days when children are on the roadway or shoulder
School zone — the tab underneath only indicates the speed limit, that limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on school days
School zone — the tab underneath indicates the speed limit and the hours that it is in effect (in this case, the 30 km/h limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on school days)

Lane use signs

Signs showing which lanes may be used to turn or go straight are mounted above the lane or at the side of the lane before the intersection. If you are in a designated lane, you must follow the direction indicated by the arrows. You may not move into or out of a designated lane while you are in an intersection.

Turn left only
Continue straight only
Go through or turn left
Go through or turn right
Vehicles from both directions must turn left, no through traffic allowed
Vehicles in both these lanes must turn left
Turn control signs
Turn control signs are mounted directly above the intersection. You must follow the direction of the arrow.

- Left turn only
- Go straight only — no turns
- Turn right or left only
- No right turns during posted times

Parking signs
Parking signs let you know where and when you are allowed to park. You may receive fines or your vehicle may be towed (or both) if you park illegally.

- Time-limited parking during posted times
- Do not park here
- Parking is not allowed during posted times
- Parking only for vehicles displaying the disabled parking sign and carrying a person with disabilities

Reserved lane signs
A white diamond painted on the road surface marks reserved lanes. Reserved lane signs are also placed over or beside lanes that are reserved for certain vehicles such as buses or high occupancy vehicles (HOVs). Other HOV signs may give additional information on who may use the HOV lane.

- Only buses in this lane
- Only buses and HOVs in this lane — may show how many people must be in the HOV
- Curb lane of cross street ahead is a reserved lane
Warning signs

Most warning signs are yellow and diamond-shaped. They warn of possible hazards ahead.

- Winding road ahead
- Hidden side road ahead
- Curve ahead — slow down
- Merging traffic ahead
- Sharp curve ahead — slow to advisory speed shown
- Road merges with another road — added lane to the right ahead
- Right lane ends ahead
- Divided highway ends ahead — keep right
- Two-way traffic ahead
- Road narrows ahead
- Narrow structure ahead — often a bridge
- Bump or rough road ahead
- Road may be slippery ahead
- Steep hill ahead — slow down
- Stop sign ahead
- Roundabout ahead
- Signal lights ahead
- Signal lights ahead — prepare to stop when lights are flashing
developing your smart driving skills

Object markers
Pay special attention to object markers — they are mounted on obstructions.

- Pedestrian crosswalk ahead
- School crosswalk ahead — this sign is fluorescent yellow-green
- School bus stop ahead
- Cyclists may be on roadway
- Fire truck entrance ahead
- Truck crossing ahead
- Highway or freeway exit — slow to advisory speed shown
- Pavement ends ahead
- Hazard or danger ahead — turn right or left
- Watch for deer ahead
- Opening bridge ahead
- Watch for rocks on the road ahead
- Remove sunglasses
- Snow shed ahead
- Use headlights ahead
- Tunnel ahead

Obstruction — keep right or left
Obstruction — keep right
Obstruction — keep left
Construction signs

These signs warn of construction and maintenance work. You must pay attention to the warnings and obey the instructions on these signs. Obey traffic-control persons, travel within the posted speed, stay well back from all equipment and pass only when it is safe.

Information and destination signs

These signs give information about destinations, route numbers and facilities. Here are a few samples.
Railway signs

Public railway and highway crossings are indicated with signs or pavement markings and may also have mechanical or electrical warning devices for your protection. Watch for them and remember you must always yield to trains.

Railway crossing ahead — be prepared to stop

Railway crossing on side road ahead — be prepared to stop

Railway crossing — stop, then proceed when it is safe

Railway crossing — stay stopped until the gate is fully raised

Signals

Lighted signals are a way of controlling traffic flow.

Lane control signals

Lane control signals are placed over lanes to indicate which ones are open for driving.
Traffic lights

Traffic lights are used to help organize the flow of traffic. Generally, a red light means “stop,” a yellow light means “caution” and a green light means “go.” These signals can have slightly different meanings if they are flashing or if they are shaped as arrows rather than circles. In some places green arrows may flash; in others they may not.

Steady red — stop — after coming to a full stop, you may turn right or turn left onto a one-way street unless a sign forbids it

Steady green — continue if the intersection is clear

Steady yellow — slow down and stop before the intersection unless you can’t safely stop in time

Flashing red — stop, then continue only when it is safe

Flashing green — pedestrian-controlled light — go only if the intersection is clear

Flashing yellow — slow down and proceed with caution

Green arrow — turn in the direction of the arrow

Green arrow — no turn permitted; go straight through only

Flashing green arrow with a steady green light — may turn in the direction of the arrow or proceed

Flashing green arrow with a steady red light — left turn allowed; through traffic must stop for red light

Yellow arrow — advance left turn signal is about to change, slow down and stop before the intersection unless you can’t safely stop in time

Transit priority signal — steady white rectangular light — only buses may go on this signal
Road markings

Road markings give you warnings or direction. They are painted on the roadway, curbs or other surfaces. It is illegal to drive over freshly painted, wet pavement markings.

Yellow lines

Yellow lines divide traffic moving in opposite directions. If there is a yellow line to your left, there will be traffic coming towards you on the other side of that yellow line.

- Broken line — passing is allowed when safe
- Broken line and solid line — you may pass only when it is safe and the broken line is on your side
- Double solid line — no passing allowed
- Single yellow line — passing is allowed with extra caution
- Double broken yellow line — lane is reversible — lane control signal will show whether you may use this lane
- Two-way left-turn lane — drivers travelling in opposite directions share this lane for left turns — markings may be reversed (solid lines inside the broken lines)
White lines

White lines are used to separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. White lines also mark crosswalks, stopping positions and the right shoulders of highways.

Solid line — do not change lanes
Broken line — lane changing is allowed when safe
Stop line — stop before this line

Pedestrian crosswalk — stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk
Pedestrian crosswalk — stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk
Pedestrian-activated crosswalk with illuminating lights in pavement — stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk
Reserved lane markings

These markings set off lanes for HOVs, buses and bicycles. HOV lanes are marked with thick solid or broken lines and white diamond symbols.

Reserved lane — additional signs or markings state which vehicles are allowed

Bicycle lane — for cyclists only — cyclists must travel in the same direction as the traffic beside them — the lane is marked with an outline of a bicycle and sometimes with a diamond

Other markings

Vehicles in this lane must turn left

Vehicles in this lane must go straight or turn left

Painted island — keep to the right and do not drive on or over